

community, and industry members for successful collaboration in achieving a workable, legal, and successful system for the distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages; and

(3) reaffirms the continued support of the Senate for policies that allow States to effectively regulate alcohol.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 552—RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 552

Whereas Minnesota was established as a territory on March 2, 1849, and became the 32nd State on May 11, 1858;

Whereas Minnesota is also known as the "Gopher State", the "North Star State", and the "Land of 10,000 Lakes";

Whereas Minnesota's name comes from the Dakota word "minnesota", meaning "water that reflects the sky", and Native Americans continue to play a defining role in Minnesota's proud heritage;

Whereas the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were established after the completion of nearby Fort Snelling, a frontier outpost and training center for Civil War soldiers;

Whereas more than 338,000,000 tons of Minnesota iron ore were shipped between 1940 and 1945 that contributed to the United States military victory in World War II, and an additional 648,000,000 tons of iron ore were shipped between 1945 and 1955 that boosted post-war economic expansion in the United States;

Whereas, in 1889, the Saint Mary's Hospital, now known as the Mayo Clinic, opened its doors to patients in Rochester, Minnesota, and is now known worldwide for its cutting-edge care;

Whereas Minnesota continues to be a leader in innovation and is currently home to more than 35 Fortune 500 companies;

Whereas Minnesota houses over 30 institutions of higher education, including the University of Minnesota, a world-class research university where the first open heart surgery and first bone marrow transplant were performed in the United States;

Whereas farmland spans over half of Minnesota's 54,000,000 acres and the agriculture industry is Minnesota's 2nd largest job market, employing nearly 80,000 farmers;

Whereas Minnesota is the Nation's number one producer of sugarbeets and turkeys;

Whereas Minnesota is a national leader in the production and use of renewable energy, which helps our Nation reduce its dependency on foreign sources of oil;

Whereas the Mall of America located in Bloomington, Minnesota, is the Nation's largest retail and entertainment complex, spanning 9,500,000 square feet and providing more than 11,000 jobs;

Whereas Minnesota has 90,000 miles of lake and river shoreline, which includes the coast of Lake Superior, the largest of North America's Great Lakes;

Whereas the Minneapolis-St. Paul area is nationally recognized for its parks, museums, and cultural events; and

Whereas the people of Minnesota have a timeless reputation of compassion, strength, and determination: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates the State of Minnesota on its 150th anniversary and the contributions it continues to make to America's economy and heritage.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 553—CONGRATULATING CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 350TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 553

Whereas 2008 marks the 350th anniversary of the establishment of Charles County, Maryland, a historic and memorable event that will be commemorated throughout the year;

Whereas Charles County was chartered in 1658 and named after Charles Calvert, a royal proprietor of the colony of Maryland;

Whereas citizens of Charles County have played an important role in the history of Maryland and our Nation, including Thomas Stone, whose home is maintained by the National Park Service in Port Tobacco and who served as a Continental Congressman, a framer of the Articles of Confederation, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, under the Articles of Confederation, John Hanson, born in Port Tobacco, served as the President of the United States in Congress Assembled;

Whereas Josiah Henson escaped slavery and fled from Charles County to Canada, where he wrote his autobiography, a narrative that later inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin";

Whereas Josiah Henson's grandnephew, Matthew Henson, left Charles County farmland to become an arctic explorer, venturing to the North Pole and going on to receive international acclaim;

Whereas, following the Civil War, the house of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd in Waldorf was where John Wilkes Booth stopped to have Dr. Mudd reset his leg, broken after he fatally shot President Abraham Lincoln and jumped off the balcony of Ford's Theater in Washington, DC;

Whereas today Charles County has roughly 120,000 residents;

Whereas, while farming and small town life still flourish, particularly along the banks of the Potomac River, the population of the county is growing; and

Whereas the county is home to workers in the National Capital region as well as the county's largest employer, a Department of Defense Energetics Center, the Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(a) commends and congratulates Charles County, Maryland, on the occasion of its 350th anniversary; and

(b) requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Charles County Anniversary Committee as an expression of the Senate's best wishes for a glorious year of celebration.

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 79—CONGRATULATING AND SALUTING FOCUS: HOPE ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND FOR ITS REMARKABLE COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DETROIT, THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 79

Whereas Focus: HOPE began as a civil and human rights organization in 1968 in the wake of the devastating Detroit riots, and was cofounded by the late Father William T. Cunningham, a Roman Catholic priest, and Eleanor M. Josaitis, a suburban housewife, who were inspired by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas Focus: HOPE is committed to bringing together people of all races, faiths, and economic backgrounds to overcome injustice and build racial harmony, and it has grown into one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Michigan;

Whereas the Focus: HOPE mission statement reads, "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. And to build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust, and affection. Black and white, yellow, brown and red, from Detroit and its suburbs of every economic status, national origin and religious persuasion we join in this movement.;"

Whereas one of Focus: HOPE's early efforts was to support African-American and female employees in a seminal class action suit against the American Automobile Association (AAA), resulting in groundbreaking affirmative action commitments made by AAA;

Whereas Focus: HOPE helped to conceive and develop the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which has been replicated in more than 32 States, and through this program, Focus: HOPE helps to feed approximately 41,000 people per month throughout southeast Michigan;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has revitalized several city blocks in central Detroit by redeveloping obsolete industrial buildings, beautifying and landscaping Oakman Boulevard, creating pocket parks, and rehabilitating homes in the surrounding areas;

Whereas, since 1981, Focus: HOPE's Machinist Training Institute has been training individuals from Detroit and surrounding areas in careers in advanced manufacturing and precision machining and has produced nearly 2,300 certified graduates, providing an opportunity for minority youth, women, and others who are often underrepresented in such careers to gain access to the financial mainstream and learn in-demand skills;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has recognized that manufacturing and information technologies are key to the economic growth and security of Michigan and the United States, and is committed to designing programs to encourage the participation of underrepresented urban individuals in those critical sectors;

Whereas, in 1982, Focus: HOPE initiated a for-profit subsidiary for community economic development purposes and is now designated with Federal HUBZone status (as defined in section 3(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)));

Whereas Focus: HOPE created Fast Track, a pioneering skill-enhancing program designed to help individuals improve their reading and math competencies by a minimum of 2 grade levels in 4 to 7 weeks;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's training and education programs have moved more than 9,600 individuals out into the workforce since the inception of those programs and have job placement rates significantly above the national average;

Whereas, in 1987, Focus: HOPE reclaimed and renovated an abandoned building and opened it as the Focus: HOPE Center for Children, which now has served nearly 6,000 children of colleagues, students, and neighbors with quality child care, including